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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7267  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0090  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD 0045  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0300  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0103  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0260  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1083

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000532

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/08/2018  
TAGS: [PREF PHUM PREL EAID IZ SY BE](#)  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASSIST IRAQI REFUGEES --  
2008 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS JUST BEGUN

REF: STATE 030028

Classified By: PolCouns Lynn Gurian for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) PolCouns delivered reftel points April 8 to Jan Meuleman, Attach, Directorate-General for Development Cooperation, Special Programs in the Belgian Ministry for Cooperation and Development. Meuleman thinks Belgium intends to again contribute money to UNHCR this year, but said budget discussions for 2008 have just begun (the new Belgian government came into office March 22) and he could not guess how much might be given. It could be the summer or early fall before decisions are reached and approved, he added. Meuleman said Belgium donated 500,000 Euros earmarked to assist Iraqi refugees in Jordan in 2007 following the donor conference in Geneva in April 2007. He added Belgium gave one million Euros in an interagency appeal for supporting the health sector through the Ministry of Health and implementing partners in Jordan. There was no Belgian money designated in 2007 for Iraqi refugees in Syria.

¶2. (C) Meuleman believes the estimated numbers of Iraqi refugees in Jordan and Syria may be inflated, though he noted the higher numbers in Syria. He said aid to Iraqi refugees in Syria might be part of the discussion on how much to donate this year. Meuleman stressed his concerns for the Iraqi IDPs, estimated at more than two million. He asked, somewhat rhetorically, why the Iraqi government could not use some of its proceeds from oil production to support and assist the IDPs.

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